

Claims

1. An elastic article comprising;  
a) an active ingredient; and  
5 b) a foam matrix formed from at least one polymeric material and a plasticiser; and  
c) a stabilising agent;  
whereby said article is capable of delivering said active ingredient to a liquid environment.
- 10 2. An elastic article according to claim 1, whereby said active ingredient is active in an aqueous environment, and whereby said article is water-dispersible, water-disintegrating or water-soluble, preferably water-soluble.
- 15 3. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, whereby said matrix has a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) of below 50°C, preferably below 40°C, and optionally between -20°C and 20°C, preferably between -10°C and 10°C.
- 20 4. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, whereby said matrix has an elastic modulus of less than 1 GN.m<sup>-2</sup>, preferably less than 0.1 GN.m<sup>-2</sup>, or even less than 0.01 GN.m<sup>-2</sup>.
5. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, whereby said stabilising agent comprises a foam stabilising agent.
- 25 6. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, whereby said active ingredient is a cleaning product ingredient, fabric care ingredient, pharmaceutical ingredient or cosmetic ingredient, preferably selected from enzymes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents, effervescence systems and mixtures thereof.
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7. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, whereby said active ingredient comprises at least an enzyme, and whereby said stabilising agent comprises an enzyme stabilising agent, preferably said stabilising agent is an enzyme stabilising agent.
- 5 8. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, whereby said polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer, preferably a water-soluble polyvinyl alcohol.
9. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, which is in the form of a particle having a volume mean particle size of from 50 to 4000 microns, preferably from 100 to  
10 1500 microns.
10. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, which has a relative density of from 0.05 to 0.9, preferably from 0.3 to 0.7.
- 15 11. An elastic article according to any preceding claim, whereby said matrix forms a series of closed and open cells, whereby the number ratio of closed cells to open cells is preferably at least 1:1.
12. An elastic article according to claim 7, obtainable by a process comprising the steps  
20 of;  
a) obtaining a mixture of a polymeric material and a plasticiser, preferably water and another plasticiser; and  
b) chemically or physically introducing a gas in said mixture; and  
c) prior to step b) and/or simultaneous with step b) and /or subsequent to step b),  
25 contacting an active ingredient to said mixture; and  
d) prior to step c) and/or simultaneous with step c) and /or subsequent to step c),  
contacting a stabilising agent to said mixture; and  
e) shaping the articles of the resulting mixture;  
whereby preferably one or more steps a) to e) are followed or accompanied by the  
30 removal of part of the water, if present.

13. An elastic article according to claim 12, whereby said active ingredient is contacted to said stabilising agent prior to said active ingredient being contacted to said mixture of polymeric material and plasticiser.
- 5 14. Use of an elastic article according to any of claims 1 to 14 to deliver active ingredients to an aqueous environment, preferably the active ingredients being detergent active ingredients, preferably enzymes, and the aqueous environment being the wash water.
- 10 15. Use of an elastic article according to any of claims 1 to 14 in cleaning compositions, fabric care compositions, personal care compositions, cosmetic compositions or pharmaceutical compositions, preferably to incorporate therein active ingredients selected from enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems, and
- 15 mixtures thereof.

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